

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 IO-14 OMB-01

EA-11 ARA-16 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 SCEM-02 INT-08 AID-20

EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 CEA-02 COME-00 DRC-01

/225 W

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O R 291235Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5553

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5259

DEPT PASS CAIRO; BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD; KUWAIT PASS DOHA

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA

SUBJECT: ARAB "NEED" FOR PEACE

1. WE HAVE NOTED WITH SOME CONCERN FREQUENT NEWS REPORTS
FROM U.S. THAT "ARABS NEED PEACE MORE THAN DOES U.S.,"
AND THAT WE CAN AFFORD TO OUTWAIT THEM.

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2. WE WILL NOT COMMENT ON ABILITY OF U.S. AND ITS ALLIES TO ADJUST TO ARAB OIL RESTRICTIONS BUT WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THESE REPORTS ARE OFF THE MARK AS FAR AS SAUDI ARABIA IS CONCERNED. WHILE OTHER ARABS MAY NEED PEACE AND WANT IT URGENTLY, SAUDI ARABIA IS UNDER NO PRESSURE TO MOVE. ITS OIL PRODUCTION IS DOWN THEREFORE PRESERVING ITS RESERVES, YET ITS INCOME IS UP. IF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED DEALS IN LIBYA AND NIDERIA FOR \$12-\$16 OIL BECOME THE INDUSTRY PATTERN, SAUDI INCOME AT PRESENT PRODUCTION LEVELS WOULD EXCEED THAT WHICH WE PREDICTED UNTIL VERY RECENTLY FOR 1980 AT 20 MILLION BBLS/DAY.

3. HINTS OF RETALIATION COMING OUT OF WASHINGTON ARE TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY HERE -- BUT THE ONLY THING THAT REALLY CONCERNS THEM IS THE POSSIBILITY OF INVASION BY THE U.S. OR THE U.S. WITH IRAN, AND ISRAEL. WE HAVE POOH-POOHED THIS HERE BUT HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN CONVINCING MANY THAT AN INVASION IS IMPOSSIBLE. PERHAPS WE HAVEN'T TRIED AS HARD AS WE COULD, AND A LITTLE DOUBT IN ARAB MINDS MIGHT BE A GOOD THING.

4. WE MUST ALSO NOT IGNORE YAMANI'S REACTION TO THESE IMAGINED THREATS. HIS VIEWS HAVE BEEN ECHOED BY PRINCE SAUD, BY ABDAL-HADI TAHIR AND BY SAQQAF. THE SAUDIS WOULD SEEK TO DESTROY THE OIL INSTALLATIONS AND FIRE THE OIL FIELDS IF AN INVASION IS LAUNCHED. THE ARAMCO PARENT COMPANIES CAN TELL THE DEPARTMENT HOW CREDIBLE THIS THREAT REALLY IS.
AKINS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO

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NNN

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30 JUN 2005

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